THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government has specified through notification issued on 7th May, 2003 [copy available in Ministry's website *www.mib.nic.in*] Rs. 72/- (plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programme and music. These channels will be transmitted through cable networks in English, Hindi and regional language, depending on the availability of such channels in the metro cities.

(c) In so far as pay channels are concerned viewers would be free to choose channels of their choice and pay only for those channels, through the mechanism of the STB.

Participation of outsider of producers in DD Serials

†2327. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shceme for participation of outsider producers in production of serials for DD-2, Metro Channel of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the nature of the scheme;

(c) by when, it is being introduced; and

(d) the details with regard to the advertisements published in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):(a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that all programmes on DD-2 are telecast under sponsorship category, where there is full participation of private/ outside producers in production of serials. The proposals under the Sponsorship Scheme are processed as per the guidelines prescribed by Prasar Bharati Board from time to time.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that proposals for programmes/ serials for DD-Metro under Sponsored category were invited from outside producers from 17.06.2002 to 30.09.2002 and again from 24.12.2002 to 31.01.2003 by giving wide publicity through print and electronic media.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.